

March 11, 2009

**BUDGET CONTAINS OVER \$10 MILLION TO IMPROVE
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN, OBEY SAYS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI), who as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee was the lead architect of the Obama economic recovery package, announced that the budget signed by the President today includes numerous items to help improve economic opportunity in Central Wisconsin and throughout the State.

"In tough economic times these provisions will be important to local communities all over Wisconsin," Obey said, noting that the initiatives that will benefit Central Wisconsin in the budget include:

- **\$1,900,000 for UW-Marathon County:** The funds are intended to help with construction of a new communications building.

- **\$1,900,000 for expansion of US Highway 10 between Marshfield and Stevens Point:** The project is part of a multi-year improvement to expand US Highway 10 to a four-lane divided highway between Marshfield and Stevens Point. Funds will pay for grading, base course, paving and structures in a portion of the corridor. This is part of the state's high priority corridors.

- **\$1,408,000 for the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Institute for Sustainable Technologies:** the funds are intended to help establish an institute that will provide state-of-the-art education to students in industrial sciences, engineering and natural resources to develop and apply sustainable technology solutions to real-world problems to the benefit of the environment, to enhance energy production, and stimulate state and regional economies.

- **\$1,225,000 to help improve the Nekoosa Wastewater Treatment Facility:** The funds are intended to help Nekoosa increase its wastewater treatment capacity, improve reliability of treatment, and prevent bypassing of wastewater during large storm events, without placing too large a burden on local ratepayers.

- **\$1,225,000 to help improve the Village of Biron's water and sanitary sewer infrastructure:** The funds are intended to help the Village of Biron attach new water and sanitary sewer infrastructure to the existing water management system in the City of Wisconsin Rapids without placing too large a burden on local ratepayers.

- **\$950,000 for reconstruction of Schofield Avenue in Weston, WI:** The funds are intended to help with the reconstruction of the main traffic route in the Village of Weston which has experienced accelerated growth in traffic due to the development of a 224 acre business park with 1900 employees and two new schools with nearly 1500 students and staff.

- **\$475,000 for grade separation in Stevens Point:** The funding is intended to help complete the preliminary design for a road-rail grade separation on Hoover road. Switching operations on the Canadian National railroad currently block the intersection, which leads to a major industrial park, for extended periods of time.

- **\$428,000 for Mid-State Technical College:** The funds are intended to help the college provide training for new and incumbent workers through implementation of five new degree programs in renewable energy technology.

- **\$400,000 for the Restorative Justice Program by Justiceworks Ltd. Stevens Point, WI:** The funding is intended to help Justiceworks, Ltd. work with Portage County to reduce criminal recidivism rates by providing increased reentry support for offenders transitioning from custody (jail and prison) back to their homes and neighborhoods and coordinating a more uniform community-wide delivery of support programs.

- **\$381,000 for the Marshfield Clinic:** The funds are intended to help the Marshfield Clinic improve access to dental services in rural and underserved areas.

- **\$277,000 for Potato Pest Management:** Requested by the UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the World Wildlife Fund and the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers, these funds are intended to help promote the development and adoption of biointensive integrated pest management practices to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides, enhance habitat quality, develop marketplace incentives for ecologically-produced potatoes and maintain economically viable farming operations.

- **\$143,000 St. Michael Hospital's SAINTS Mobile Health Services:** The funds are intended to help a hospital in Stevens Point, Wisconsin purchase a mobile health services van to provide health care in 30 Wisconsin counties.

- **\$95,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of the Wausau Area:** The funds are intended to allow the Wausau Boys & Girls Club provide after-school programs to help youth develop academic and social skills. Research shows that when students have an alternative place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, but they also have a better education experience. That's why I've pushed for more funding for after-school centers in the budget and why I asked for these funds to help continue these after school programs in Wisconsin.

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